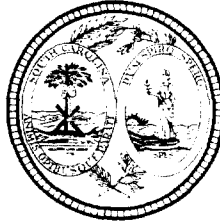


STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Office of the State Treasurer

RICHARD ECKSTROM
State Treasurer

August 28, 1997

Wade Hampton Office Building
Post Office Box 11778
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) now has under review BellSouth's application to provide long distance service to business and residential customers in South Carolina. I am writing to urge the Commission to consider BellSouth's application without delay.

On July 25, 1997, BellSouth's application was unanimously approved (7-0) by the South Carolina Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC certified that BellSouth has met the 14-point competitive checklist included in the Federal Act and affirmed that BellSouth's entry into providing long distance service is in the public interest.

Provision of long distance service by BellSouth in South Carolina should increase competition thereby resulting in lower prices, better service, more telecommunications choices for business and residential customers, and new information age jobs for workers throughout our state.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 authorizes the FCC to take up to ninety days to approve long distance applications from the regional Bell companies. In light of the findings of the South Carolina Public Service Commission, I urge you to consider BellSouth's application immediately. Taking longer will serve no useful purposes and will unnecessarily deny the citizens and businesses of South Carolina the significant benefits that will result from new competition in the long distance market.

Very truly yours,

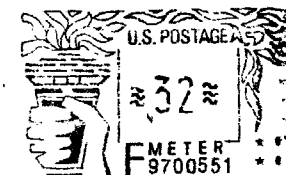
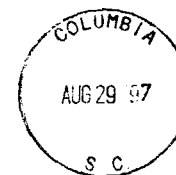
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Eckstrom".

Richard Eckstrom
State Treasurer

RE/ec
c: Joe M. Anderson, Jr.
[0228]

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RICHARD ECKSTROM
STATE TREASURER
P.O. BOX 11778
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29211



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FEDERAL MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington DC 20554





County of Lexington

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County Council
212 South Lake Drive
Lexington, South Carolina 29072
TELEPHONE: (803) 359-8103 FAX: (803) 359-8101

August 28, 1997

Bruce E. Rucker
District 1

Roy J. Frick
District 2

George Smokey Davis
District 3

Jacob R. Wilkerson
District 4

Joel B. Player, Jr.
District 5

Johnny W. Jeffcoat
District 6

John W. Carrigg, Jr.
District 7

William B. Banning, Sr.
District 8

David S. James
District 9

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will soon have under review BellSouth's application to provide long distance service to businesses and residential customers in the state of South Carolina. I am writing in support of BellSouth's application and to urge the Commission to approve it without delay.

On July 25, 1997, BellSouth's application was unanimously approved (7-0) by the South Carolina Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC certified that BellSouth has met the 14 point competitive checklist included in the Federal Act and they affirmed that BellSouth's entry into the long distance business is in the public interest. I support the South Carolina Commission's decision.

Provision of long distance service by BellSouth in South Carolina will increase competition resulting in better prices, better service, more telecommunications choices for businesses and residential customers, and new information age jobs for workers throughout the state.

Please act expeditiously to grant BellSouth's request. Taking longer will serve no useful purpose and will unnecessarily deny the citizens of South Carolina the very real benefits of new competition in the long distance market.

Yours very truly,

William B. Banning, Sr.
Chairman
Lexington County Council

WBBSR/dkb

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LEXINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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THE HONORABLE REED HUNDT CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET NW
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